

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-02 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CU-04 AID-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 SWF-02

DRC-01 /134 W

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R 091524Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8428

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL ASMARA

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 3957

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINT SGEN ET

SUBJECT: NEW CABINET'S POLICY DECLARATION

REF: USINFO 091405Z APR 74

1. NEW ENDALKACHEW CABINET ISSUED GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT; POUCHING FULL TEXT WHICH APPEARED APRIL 9 PRESS. (IN MARCH 30 INTERVIEW ((USINFO 01/1432Z APRIL 74)) PM ENDALKACHEW HAD INDICATED THAT POLICY DECLARATION WOULD COVER BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM NEEDS OF COUNTRY IN SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS AND WOULD NOT BE ONLY POLICY OF "CARETAKER" GOVERNMENT.) LENGTHY STATEMENT REFERRED TO CURRENT CHALLENGE FACING ETHIOPIA AS RESULT LONGSTANDING AND CUMULATIVE PROBLEMS. IT DESCRIBED TASK OF CURRENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM) AS FACILITATING NECESSARY CHANGES IN INTERIM PERIOD (I.E., UNTIL CONSTITUTION AMENDED) AND PROMISED SUBSEQUENT ANNOUNCEMENTS RE SPECIFIC ACTION DURING TRANSITION.

2. STATEMENT PROMISED CM'S FULL SUPPORT TO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
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INVESTIGATING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. NEW GOVERNMENT ALSO PROMISED

TO ASSIST CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION "WITH VIEW TO INSTITUTING CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY."

3. RECEIVING HIGH PRIORITY WILL BE PRESENT FISCAL DIFFICULTIES AND DROUGHT PROBLEMS. ON POLITICAL MATTERS GOVERNMENT WILL BE GUIDED BY OBJECTIVES OF STRENGTHENING COUNTRY'S UNITY, PROTECTING ITS BOUNDARIES AND PRESERVING ITS TRADITIONS. FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN AND LEGAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED IN PRESENT CONSTITUTION WILL BE EXTENDED FULLY TO PEOPLE.

4. IN GENERAL TERMS CM PROMISED IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT. IT PLANS ESTABLISH SPECIAL OFFICE TO HANDLE PUBLIC GRIEVANCES. MINISTER OF INTERIOR WILL EXERCISE FULL CONTROL UNDER LAW OVER PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND POLICE.

5. POLICY STATEMENT ALSO MENTIONED REFORM OF JUDICIAL SYSTEM, ADAPTATION OF EDUCATION TO NATIONAL OBJECTIVES, REDUCTION OF WIDE DISPARITIES IN STANDARD OF LIVING, MORE PROGRESSIVE AND EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF TAX COLLECTION, CREDIT TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT, INSTITUTION OF PRICE CONTROL SYSTEM, REORIENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FROM URBAN TO RURAL AREAS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS.

6. SECTION ON LAND REFORM ALONE CONTAINED DETAILS (SEPTEL). AFTER POINTING OUT NEED ADJUST LAND TENURE SYSTEM, STATEMENT DESCRIBED GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES OF GRANTING GOVERNMENT LAND ONLY TO THOSE WHO WILL WORK IT AND CONFISCATION OF EXCESSIVE LAND HOLDINGS AND DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS. DEFINITION OF MAXIMUM LAND HOLDINGS AND SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION WILL BE DETERMINED BY LAW. WHILE ABOVE MEASURES ARE BEING WORKED OUT, NEW DRAFT LAW RE LANDLORD-TENANT RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE SUBMITTED PARLIAMENT. STATEMENT PROMISES SPECIAL EFFORT TO HELP NOMADIC PEOPLES, TO PROTECT ECOLOGY AND TO RETURN FOREST LANDS TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.

7. RE FOREIGN POLICY NEW GOVERNMENT REITERATED FULL SUPPORT TO OBJECTIVES OF UN AND OAU AND ITS INTENTION STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, AFRICAN IN PARTICULAR. IEG WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY CONFERENCES. IT WILL PURSUE AN ACTIVE POLICY OF NEIGHBORLY COOPERATION ON BASIS OF RECOGNITION OF ITS BOUNDARIES IN

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ACCORDANCE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.
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